

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE HONG KONG BUREAU

MHK-3012 5 October 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH:

Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT:

Monthly Report -- Hong Kong Bureau -- September 1983

I. GENERAL

Typhoon Damage -- Typhoon Ellen, which struck Hong Kong on 12 September, left at least 10 people dead and many missing, injured and homeless. Twentysix ships were grounded by winds gusting to 120 knots. Bureau employees and staff residences survived the typhoon intact, though the bureau suffered some damage when windows in the editorial area blew open. A large portion of the ceiling over the editorial desk fell down and desks, carpeting, typewriters, etc. suffered water damage.

Hong Kong Economy -- The Hong Kong dollar fell to a new low during the month of HK\$9.55 to U.S.\$1.00, breaking the so-called psychological barrier of HK\$8.00, a barrier recently thought impossible to breach. The skid was stopped when the Hong Kong Government intervened by raising the prime rate. The dollar fell back to HK\$7.89 but slowly resumed its rise and at the end of the month stood at HK\$8.50. Local comment unanimously contributes the weakness of the local currency to lack of confidence over the future of Hong Kong.

			- An a	rchited	t has	been	selecte	d for	the	new	bureau	
premises	in			and	l inte	rior c	onstruc	tion	work	has	started	•
The arch	itect	estimate	s five	weeks	to co	mplete	the ne	w off	ice.	Th€	bureau	
hopes to	move	in the s	econd	week of	Nove	mber.						

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Wage Survey -- The State Department wage and classification survey team completed its survey at the end of the month. Section heads and local employees were briefed in separate meetings on the team's findings. The most significant outcome of the survey is the recommendation to pay local employees housing benefits. A final decision on this and the recommended wage increases should be forthcoming in November.

II.

ADMINISTRATION	
Personne1	
Promotions Monitors	were promoted to FBN 8.

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III. VISITS

To the Bureau:

1. On 12 September, IC Staff Director Rear Admiral Burkhalter and his executive assistant, Lt Cdr Dave Muller. They were given a general briefing on bureau operations, particularly the bureau's Beijing TV monitoring operation. They also had a lengthy discussion with chief monitor on monitoring and Chinese developments in general. They were accompanied by Al Usack of the Consulate's Executive Staff.

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- 2. Carl Eikenberry, DLO, visited the bureau on 9 September to discuss bureau support in providing provincial radio tapes to the Defense Department's Chinese-language study program, which is held in Hong Kong in cooperation with the British military. Eikenberry was given a tour of the bureau and listened to samples of provincial radio programs. He will follow up his request after further study.
- 3. On 20 September, two Defense Department China analysts, Joni Kijima and Lt Marie Wzycak, from IPAC Hawaii. They were accompanied on the tour of the bureau by Col Jim Duffey, DLO.
- 4. On 23 September, visited the bureau to look at the BeijinSTAT TV monitoring operation. As a result of his visit, the bureau will provide him with videotapes of Deng Xiaoping, party chairman Hu Yaobang and Premier Zhao Ziyang.
- 5. On 27 September Okinawa Bureau cruising monitor visited the STAT bureau briefly en route to a cruising survey in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

From the Bureau:

1.	Teletype supervisor		visited	headquarters	on the	Foreign	STA
National	Orientation Program	12-16 Septemb	er.				

2. Deputy visited DLO's military research division in STAT the consulate for a briefing on their Beijing TV program. DLO compiles tapes of PLA activities and sends the material to various Defense Department consumers. Though DLO has its own source of videotape recordings, they noted that the tapes provided by FBIS are of much higher quality and have become their major source for video material.

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L	Chief,	Hong	Kong	Bureau	

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Attachments:

A. Production Report

cc: Orig + 3 Hqs.
C/Okinawa
C/ Seoul

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